GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4309
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2008
OVERSEAS VISIT NORMS FOR EMIGRANT CHECK REQUIRED TRAVELLERS
Sugavanam Shri E.G.

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to ease overseas visit norms for Emigrant Check Required (ECR) travellers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS(SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a)&(b): To ease overseas visit norms for ECR travellers the procedure of issuing suspension of emigration check requirement has been abolished in the Protector of Emigrants(POE) offices w.e.f. 1st October 2007. ECR passport holders traveling abroad for purposes other than employment are now allowed to leave the country on production of valid passport, valid visa & return ticket at the Immigration counters at the international airports in India.

(c): The Ministry is undertaking emigration reforms to make the travel process simple, transparent and efficient. We have done away with the requirement of exit clearance for those traveling on visit visa to save travellers from undue inconvenience, harassment and expenditure. The Ministry has similarly liberalized the criteria for issue of ECNR passports to cover all persons who are 10th class pass and above. The regulatory system for recruiting agents is being made more stringent and their performance monitored more closely.